

noth certainty is, & don't think it prudent to restrict
myself to a mere support. Now many benevolent friends
I may have, few of them would either have me live sick
in their houses without compensation - or furnish my wife
a few months' living if I should die - Neither is impossi-
ble to me - But while I say this I may add that
as I have none to support but myself & wife I will
not need a large salary as those who have a no.
of children - Let the brethren make a proposal -
My circumstances require that I should engage in some busi-
ness soon. I wish therefore that an answer be made to this
note as soon as possible - Can I not hear from you
as early as next Tuesday evening? I remain
your bro. William Lockman

Prof. Wm. Lockman

New York July 24/46.

New York July 24. 1846

Dear Bro. Phelps,

87.

Your note of the 25th inst. has been received. After some reflection upon its contents I am prepared to make this reply:—In selecting a field of labor the only question which it concerns the Christian to answer, is, "Does it promise him more usefulness, on the whole, than any other within his reach?" If I can be satisfied that I can do more for our Master's Cause in Washington than elsewhere I should be happy to go there and "try to gather an A. S. S." But this question I am now unable to decide. Nor do I see how I can well decide it without ^{making} paying you a visit, consulting with the brethren &c. — I will therefore propose, if they will pay the expense of such a visit — travelling expenses & boarding while there — I will go & preach a ballad or two & look over the difficulties & encouragements &c. Of course my wife would like to go with me. If this expense seems too great please write & give me as accurate information as you are able on the following points: 1. What is the no. of men who will probably be ready to engage in this movement? Their wealth? intelligence? influence? piety? 2. What kind of opposition may we expect to encounter, neglect or open hostility? 3. What is the highest salary they propose giving me? I cannot of course tell you "what will suffice for my support the first year", being ignorant of the expense of rent & boarding, clothing &c. in that city. All that I can say